



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

ICE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ANNOUNCE THE ARREST OF 95 CRIMINAL ALIEN GANG MEMBERS IN NEW YORK METRO AREA

33 arrests this week; all are placed in removal proceedings

NEW YORK -- Martin D. Ficke, Special Agent in Charge of the Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in New York; Martin F. Horn, Commissioner, New York City Corrections and Probation and William McBride, Deputy Chief, Yonkers Police Department announced today the arrest of 95 criminal alien gang members, including 33 this week, all of whom are now facing removal from the United States.

The arrests are the culmination of a joint four-month investigation conducted by ICE, NYC Department of Probation, Yonkers Police Department and other local law enforcement agencies that targeted criminal alien gang members residing in New York City, Yonkers and Long Island.

The ICE initiative in New York called "Operation ICE Cage" was launched in January and falls under the umbrella of ICE's nationwide anti-gang initiative called "Operation Community Shield." To date, Operation Community Shield has led to the arrest of hundreds of different gang members nationwide, including more than 200 members of the street gang Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13).

Operation Community Shield is designed to disrupt, dismantle, and prosecute violent gang organizations by employing the full range of authorities and investigative tools available to ICE. Under this initiative, ICE is employing its broad immigration authorities (both criminal and administrative) against gang members, as well as its customs authorities in targeting narcotics smuggling, money laundering, and in seeking the forfeiture of assets. This initiative involves strong partnerships and cooperation with existing federal, state, and local anti-gang efforts.

"It's well documented that violent gangs pose a significant threat to the public safety of New York," said Ficke. "This initiative leverages an array of law enforcement efforts with the common goal of removing criminal alien gang members from the United States and eliminating their ability to continuously re-victimize our communities."

"We are pleased to be working once again with ICE to remove dangerous criminals from the streets of New York," said Horn. "New York City is the safest big city in America. When these probationers are deported, it will be an even safer place for everyone."

The criminal alien gang members arrested today had prior felony or misdemeanor convictions for various offenses including assault, attempted assault, sexual misconduct, criminal sale marijuana, criminal possession of a weapon, drug sales and drug possession, gang assault, promoting prostitution, criminal possession of stolen property, and robbery.

All fugitives were in the country illegally and will now be placed in removal proceedings. Countries of origin for those arrested today include Dominica, Ecuador, Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala and Peru.

This week's enforcement action began Tuesday at 6:00 a.m. and ended today at 10:00 a.m. Arrests were made within the five boroughs of New York City, Yonkers, Nassau County and Suffolk County.

Special Agent Ficke praised the ICE special agents and officers from ICE Detention and Removal, ICE Federal Protective Service, NYC Probation Department, Yonkers Police Department, Suffolk County Police Department and Nassau County Police Department.

Gangs Targeted:

MS-13
CRIPS
CARNALITO
CHOLOS
LA RAZA
SOMBRA NEGRA
LOS VAGOS
CACHONDOS
LA PRIMERA
LATIN BOYS
VATOS LOCOS
CRAZY HOMIES
MEXICAN MAFIA

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.